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CONTROLLING PRAIRIE DOGS

How It Looks.

The scenic feature comprising the upper half of the exhibit, shows two scenes in the same place but not at the same time, made possible by the use of dissolving or fade-away devices and lights.

The first scene consists of a modelled foreground with a painted background, showing two mounted prairie dogs, one standing near the entrance to their underground home and the other one apparently coming out of the entrance. The surrounding area is badly infested with these rodents and the land has but little value for the growing crops.

After the scene is shown for a few seconds it fades away and another painted picture of the same area is shown growing a good crop of wheat after it has been rid of prairie dogs.

Below the feature is a cross-section showing the prairie dog's home underground. A placard at the bottom of the booth explains the "home" fully.

Placards at each side of the feature tell of the injury done by these rodents and suggest the best methods of controlling them.

What It Tells.

Steady progress is being made in the control of injurious rodents such as prairie dogs, ground squirrels, pocket gophers, jack rabbits which have persisted and many instances increased extensively.

Many of our national forest lands, as well as the public domain, are infested with this pest and on the national forests the infestation is so great that nearly 25 per cent of the carrying capacity of the livestock on these lands is reduced because of the food consumed by the prairie dog. The work of

federal state and local agencies have been coordinated so that the task of clearing great areas can be conducted in a systematic way. The work also received great impetus because of the benefits that would appeal to their business judgment.

Operation on a large scale have been carried on in cooperation with the Office of Cooperative Extension Work and the State Extension Services, including many county agricultural agents.

Occurrence of such animals as the prairie dogs in the so-called prairie dog towns decreases the number of livestock that can be maintained on a given area. Their presence also interferes with the success of deferred grazing, as they continue to feed upon the grasses during the period the stock is kept off, and finding such areas more favorable for their feeding, increase in numbers and destructiveness. Because of this, organized campaigns to eliminate the destructive activities of prairie dogs is an essential feature of any well ordered range improvement program.

Much damage is occasioned by the prairie dogs to crops in the West, particularly grain crops.

Where To Get Information.

Apply to the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. or to its local leaders of rodent control, or representatives of the agricultural extension services. The names and addresses of the U. S. Department of Agriculture leaders in rodent control are as follows:

D. A. Gilchrist,
134 So. Central Ave.,
Phoenix, Ariz.

A. E. Gray,
208 French Bldg.,
Albuquerque,
N. M.

Joseph Keyes,
211 P. O. Bldg.,
Berkeley, Calif.

I. N. Gabrielson,
516 P. O. Bldg.,
Portland, Ore.

L. L. Laythe,
305 Custom House,
Denver, Col.

L. C. Whitehead,
422 Oppenheimer Bldg.,
San Antonio, Tex.

W. E. Crouch,
P. O. Box 13,
Boise, Idaho.

R. S. Zimmerman,
204 Atlas Bldg.,
Salt Lake City,
Utah.

A. E. Oman,
c/o Extension Service,
Manhattan, Kans.

L. K. Couch,
State Capitol,
Olympia, Wash.

O. E. Stephl,
c/o Extension Service,
Bozeman, Mont.

A. M. Day,
c/o Extension Service,
Laramie, Wyo.

E. R. Sans,
450 Gazette Bldg.,
Albuquerque, N. M.